



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

JUL - 6 2017

The Honorable Diane Black
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
355 North Belvedere Drive, Suite 308
Gallatin, Tennessee 37066

Dear Congresswoman Black:

Thank you for your June 1, 2017, letter on behalf of your constituent (b) (6) of (b) (6) Tennessee, who expressed concerns about the pollution and debris originating from (b) (6) (b) (6). Your letter has been referred to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 office in Atlanta, Georgia, for response.

The EPA shares a joint responsibility with many state and local governments to protect communities throughout the United States from the impacts of pollution. In Tennessee, the EPA has delegated the authority for many permitting, compliance monitoring and enforcement activities required by federal environmental statutes to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). TDEC has a field office located in Nashville, Tennessee, which is responsible for monitoring the Baggett Grain, Inc., facility with respect to air, solid waste and water quality requirements.

(b) (6) is a corn, soybean and wheat grain handling operation which consists of receiving, drying, storage and off-loading from grain elevators. On June 26, 2017, our South Air Enforcement and Toxics Section contacted Mr. Bill McCabe in the Nashville Field Office regarding the facility and the concerns raised by (b) (6). Mr. McCabe indicated that there have not been any complaints received about the facility since the issuance of the latest air operating permit on October 8, 2014. The permit remains in effect through October 6, 2024. (b) (6) complaint did prompt the Field Office to conduct an onsite inspection on June 28, 2017, however, the inspectors did not observe any air pollutants being released at that time. A final compliance determination will be made in the near future.

The EPA has identified particulate matter (PM) as the air pollutant emitted in the largest quantities from grain handling operations. PM is emitted when grain is transferred within the operation. The facility is classified and permitted as a minor source of air pollutants. (b) (6) indicated that the pollution and debris seems to be worse in the Spring and Fall. Seasonally there could be excess grain chaff (the dry, scaly protective casings of seeds of cereal grains) which is considered PM for the purposes of the Clean Air Act. The permit requires the facility to take precautions to prevent PM from becoming airborne, and the facility has taken measures to minimize the amount of grain chaff emitted into the air by applying water mist in the dryer area before the grain is transferred to storage. The loading operation for off-site grain distribution utilizes chute extensions which capture the grain chaff and minimizes the release of air pollution.

Region 4 will continue to communicate with the Nashville Field Office about this matter. (b) (6) may contact Mr. McCabe at (615) 687-7046 for additional information regarding the results of the most recent inspection and compliance determination.

If you have questions or need additional information from the EPA, please contact me or Allison Wise, in the Region 4 Office of Government Relations, at (404) 562-8327.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "V. Anne Heard".

V. Anne Heard
Acting Regional Administrator

cc: Ms. Michelle Walker Owenby
Director, Division of Air Pollution Control
TDEC

Mr. Bill McCabe
TDEC – Nashville Office